



STATE CAPACITY GRANTS FOR INTEGRATING GENOMICS INTO CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

State public health professionals lack the support and training they need to understand and apply advances in genomics and their relevance to disease prevention and health promotion.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

CDC in 2003 awarded funds to chronic disease prevention programs in four states (Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, and Utah) to assess the value of genomic information in public health policy and programs. Selected accomplishments include the following:

Surveillance

- Addition of family history questions to the BRFSS in three states to assess prevalence and associations with health behaviors.
- Collaboration between a State Cancer Registry and Cancer Genetic Alliance to collect and assess population-based data on the use of genetic testing for inherited breast and ovarian cancer.
- A review of NHANES data on diabetes and family history.
- Evaluation of vital records for surveillance of sudden cardiac death.

Workforce Education and Genomics Tools

- Planning and coordinating statewide symposiums on genetics and public health.
- Development of education modules in cancer genomics.
- Disease-specific training, presentations, symposia on genomics and chronic diseases.
- Integration of a family history component into the CDC-funded WISEWOMAN project.
- Development of fact sheets on family history.

Assessment

- Piloting the CDC family history tool with local health care partners.
- Assessment of knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors in urban community-based clinics related to family history of cancer.
- Chart review study to assess the extent of family history collection and documentation by physicians.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

By sharing their experience and lessons learned during the first year, these state programs will be focal points for the continued integration of genomics into chronic disease prevention programs throughout the United States.